

# St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy

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## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021, St Peter's Patronal Festival

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Please print and bring this sheet with you if you are attending the service and wish to follow the readings and sing the hymns. (SPB refers to the Scottish Prayer Book Liturgy for those who follow this service)

*Introit Hymn:* For all the Saints

1. For all the saints, who from their labours rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy name, O Jesus, be forever bless'd.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
2. Thou wast their rock, their refuge, and their might,  
thou, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;  
'mid gloom and doubt, their true and shining light.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
3. Oh, bless'd communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,  
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
4. The golden evening brightens in the west.  
Soon, soon to faithful servants cometh rest.  
Sweet is the calm of paradise the bless'd.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
5. But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day;  
the saints triumphant rise in bright array,  
as God to glory calls them all away.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
6. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
all praising Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

*Welcome:* Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Collect for Purity:* **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Gloria:* **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Collect:* Almighty God, who inspired your apostle Peter to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God: build up your Church upon this rock, that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Collect SPB:* O Almighty God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to thy apostle St Peter many excellent gifts, and commandest him earnestly to feed thy flock: Make, we beseech thee, all Bishops and Pastors diligently to preach thy holy word, and the people obediently to follow the same, that they may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*First reading:* Ezekiel 3. 4-11 (SPB Acts 12.1)

*Second reading:* 2 Corinthians 5. 6-17

*Gradual hymn:* How sweet the sound of Jesus sounds

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| 1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds<br>in a believer's ear!<br>It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,<br>and drives away our fear. | my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,<br>accept the praise I bring.   |
| 2. It makes the wounded spirit whole<br>and calms the troubled breast;<br>'tis manna to the hungry soul,<br>and to the weary, rest.     | 4. How weak the effort of my heart,<br>how cold my warmest thought;<br>but when I see you as you are,<br>I'll praise you as I ought.  |
| 3. O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,<br>my Prophet, Priest, and King,  | 5. Till then I would your love proclaim<br>with every fleeting breath;<br>and may the music of your name<br>refresh my soul in death. |

*Gospel acclamation:* **Alleluia! Alleluia! You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.  
And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. Alleluia.**

*Gospel:* Matthew 16. 13-19 (St Matthew 16.13)

*When gospel is announced:*  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

*At end:*  
Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel. **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

*Sermon:* *The Revd Canon Christine  
Fraser*

Our Christian Year is punctuated by the festivals of saints: Apostles and Evangelists, Martyrs and Confessors; holy men and women, and children, too, of all times and places, of all sorts and conditions. These festivals set before us, in a splendid panorama, all the Spirit's gifts, the virtues and the graces of God's Kingdom, in their marvellous diversity. They remind us, by their different emphases, that though there is "one Spirit and one hope, one Lord, one Faith and one Baptism, one God and Father of us all," yet our holy calling is expressed in so many different ways. "As the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being different, are one body; so also is Christ."

"There are diversities of operations, but it is the same God that worketh all in all." We have our unity in and through diversity. That is the pattern of the Church's life, and that is the pattern of all true social order: a gracious reciprocity of gifts and talents; unity in diversity.

Both sides of that are crucially important: both diversity and unity. All our diverse gifts have a common source, and must serve a common end; all express and serve a common faith. Thus this great festival of St. Peter comes in the midst of the Christian Year, as a festival of faith - that virtue upon which all the rest, all the gifts and graces of the saints must hinge. All the rest must hinge upon that faith, that Petrine affirmation, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." That is the foundation of all the diverse Christian virtues, the ground of Christian unity, the "rock" upon which the Church of Christ is built; all Christian life begins with that, and hinges upon that. And we who keep St. Peter's festival must celebrate and share St. Peter's faith.

But is such clear and confident assertion really possible for us? Amid all the complications of our lives, amid all the conflicting voices that assail us, from outside us and from within our own souls, can we be so definite as that? Surely, we think, surely it was easier for those first followers of Jesus. If we had heard Jesus teaching, if we had witnessed his miracles ourselves, surely faith would be an easy matter. So we tell ourselves.

But, you know, practically every page of the Gospel contradicts that sentiment. Faith did not come easily. The lame walked, the lepers were cleaned, the blind received their sight, the dead were raised, and the poor had the Gospel preached to them. The signs of divine presence were all there. But the people heard and saw as though they had neither eyes nor ears. They were disturbed, and cast about for explanation: "He casteth out the devils through Beelzebul," they said, "the prince of devils". There was great popular excitement, to be sure, but the excitement served only towards Christ's rejection.

Even his closest friends hesitated when he asked them what they thought. "Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some say Elijah, or Jeremiah" - some great prophet, risen from the dead. Yes, "but whom do you say that I am?" It fell to Simon Peter - Peter the impetuous - to rise to the great affirmation: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." "And Jesus answered, saying, 'Blessed art thou, Simon, son of Jonas: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father, which is in heaven.'"

It wasn't easy and I don't think it became much easier. There at Caesarea Philippi, we see one side of Peter's faith: the moment of faith's clear affirmation: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." A little later, in Jerusalem, on the night of Christ's betrayal, we see another side. Still, there is the confident assertion: "Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both to prison and to death." But that very night, at the hour of cockcrow, there came the moment of denial: "I know him not", said Peter, as he warmed himself by the fire. And the Lord turned, and look on Peter, and Peter remembered how the Lord had said to him, "before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice." And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

All this, you see, belongs to Peter's faith: the warm, clear light of affirmation, the dark cold night of doubt and hopelessness, and then the tears of penitence. St. Peter's faith is sorely tried and tested. "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." And, in the end, the faith of Peter does not fail; in the end, it is affirmed again, in tears of penitence.

We who share St. Peter's faith must also know and understand the trial of our faith. We walk by faith, you know, and not by sight. We see darkly, through a glass, as in a clouded mirror; we know in part. There is, indeed, the moment of confident assertion: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God", but there is also the moment of doubt, and manifold temptation, the moment of denial and betrayal, when we say, "I know him not." And then our Saviour turns and looks upon us, and faith returns, in tears of penitence.

I think it is vitally important that Christians nowadays should have some understanding of the meaning of the trials of our faith. Around us, not only in the world, but within the Church itself, and within our very souls, there are the pressures of insistent worldliness. The hosts of compromise and shallowness besiege the very rock of faith. 'Adjust, revise, conform', they cry. "Surely thou art one of them", they cry, "for thy speech betrayeth thee." And how often, sorely tempted, do we reply, "No, I know him not". Then may we find the grace of Peter to shed the bitter tears of penitence.

St. Peter shows us that there is no easy Christian faith. Trials and temptations, the dark night of doubt, confusion and uncertainty, are not just unfortunate accidents. In God's good providence, they belong to the very life of faith; for faith must be tried, like precious metal, "which from the earth is tried, and purified seven times in the fire". Do not suppose for one moment that we can avoid the testing. Indeed, as St. James says in

his Epistle, we must "count it all joy...knowing that the trying of our faith worketh patience." "Let patience have her perfect work", he says, "that ye may be perfect and entire."

Christian times are always times of trial. Perhaps those trials take different forms in one age or another, and different forms for each of us; but always they are, and must be there. Doubt and confusion - even the moments of betrayal - do not destroy the soul which is ready to return in penitence. What alone destroys the soul, is the cold, hard cynicism, which blasphemes against the Spirit; which simply doesn't care. "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not."

Cling to the rock of St. Peter's faith, and "count it all joy"; "Let patience have her perfect work." That rock will not fail us; we have our Saviour's promise that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Amen.

*Nicene Creed:*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one substance with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the  
Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from  
the Father.  
Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.  
and has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

*Intercessions:*  
*Group*

*Composed and prayed on behalf of the congregation by a member of the Intercessors*

Heavenly Father, we ask that you will hear the prayers, hopes and fears that we offer up to you, which we offer in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Father, today we remember one of your Son's twelve disciples, Peter, in whose memory our own church is dedicated.

Your Son recognised Peter's outstanding qualities, and chose him to be the foundation of your Church on earth.

And yet we know that, like us, he was a flawed individual, and that he denied your Son at the time of his greatest need.

Father, help us to take comfort from Peter's example, so that we can be assured that, despite our own faults, we can depend on your forgiveness and love, so long as we seek your guidance and are honest to ourselves about our failings.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

We pray for the work of the leader of our college of bishops, Mark, and for our own bishop, Ian, as they seek to take forward your Church and to spread your message of love throughout the wider world.

We pray for the work of the Scottish Episcopal Institute, as it nurtures those responding to your call.

And we place before you those who worship in the charges of Auchterarder and Muthill.

Here in our own parish of Kirkcaldy, we thank you for your support of Christine's ministry and ask that you will be an inspiration for Stuart as he begins to minister to us.

We also give thanks for the contributions of all who offer their gifts to our spiritual and communal life.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Father, we are afraid of the deadly spread of Coronavirus across the world, not only in our own country, but also in those parts of the world that are without the resources to deal with it, even to the limited extent that is currently available to the richer nations.

We ask that ways can be found to bring the pandemic under control, praying that you will guide the work of those who are seeking effective treatments.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

We ask that you will encircle with your love and comfort all those known to us who are suffering any form of illness or frailty, whether of the body, the mind or the spirit, praying that, if it is your will for them, they can be fully restored to a state of good health.

At this time of pandemic, we place before you those suffering from loneliness, depression or despair as a result of the limitations that have had to be placed on human contact.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

We remember those who have passed into your presence in previous years, calling to mind Jean Innes, who for many years was a devoted member of our congregation.

We thank you for the promise of eternal life in your presence for those who have died believing in you, a promise that we are taught has come to us through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

In a few moments of stillness, we offer up to you our personal prayers, hopes and thanks.

Father, we offer up these prayers in the name of your Son, who suffered an agonising death on the cross for our sake, and who we are taught conquered death by rising again. **Amen.**

Confession

*and Absolution:*

God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because God loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence*

**God our Father, we confess to you  
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.**

**We are truly sorry.**

**Forgive us our sins,**

**and deliver us from the power of evil.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us,**

**Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

(May) God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Peace:*

We meet in Christ's Name let us share his peace.

*The service continues in the **Green** Liturgy Booklet at Page 4. There will be no offertory collection during the service, please place your offertory in the dish at the door before or after the service.*

*Offertory hymn:*

My every prayer

1. The more I walk with You  
And talk with You  
I'm growing –  
Growing – in a love that's everywhere.

And everything I do  
I do for You  
While sharing my every prayer

2. The more I understand  
your guiding hand  
I'm living –  
Living – for a day that's Yours to share  
And on that day I'll see  
You shine on me  
While sharing my every prayer
3. The more I feel You near  
Your presence here  
I'm breathing –  
Breathing – in Your word of endless care  
And knowing in my mind  
Such love I'll find  
While sharing my every prayer
4. *Sharing every prayer,  
Night and day,  
And trusting every thought I do  
Sharing every prayer*

- That's my way –  
Way to be one with You*
5. The more life flows along  
I feel I'm strong  
Yet humbling,  
Humbling – when my soul to You I bare  
And far from on my own  
I'm not alone  
While sharing my every prayer
  6. The more You walk with me  
And talk with me  
I'm longing –  
Longing – for a day that's Yours to share  
Just sensing all around  
That peace I've found  
While sharing my every prayer
- My every prayer

*Communion Prayer: (For those at home)*

**God of infinite mercy. We thank you for Jesus our Saviour who feeds his people and gives them eternal life. Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine we thank you that we do receive Christ's saving presence, the forgiveness of sins and all other benefits of his passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the risen and ascended life of our Saviour. Amen. (This prayer is said during the online Provincial service).**

*The Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Communion hymn: Just as I am*

1. Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
2. Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
3. Just as I am, poor wretched, blind  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea all I need in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God. I come.
4. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come.
5. Just as I am (thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down),  
Now to be thine, yea thine alone,  
O Lamb of God I come
6. Just as I am of that free love  
The breadth, length, depth and height to  
prove.  
Here for a season then above.  
O Lamb of God I come.

*Sentence:*

We give thanks to you Lord, for you are gracious  
**And your mercy endures forever**

*Concluding Prayer:* **Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Blessing:* God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Recessional hymn:* Tell out my soul

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:  
unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:  
make known his might, the deeds his arm  
has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:  
powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to  
flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:  
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and forevermore.

## **7pm Candle Prayer**

**Everlasting God, whose way is known to those who live by faith,  
Grant us that we might walk by faith  
And so live for you  
That our lives reflect the glory of God.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Everlasting God, whose way is known to those who live by faith,  
Grant us the assurance that, as we walk by faith,  
We are not alone  
And that we walk in the company of your Son.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Everlasting God, whose way is known to those who live by faith,  
Grant us the knowledge  
That we walk in the company of your people  
And in the community of your Spirit.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Everlasting God, whose way is known to those who live by faith,  
Grant us that we might see  
The complexity of this world  
Through eyes enlightened by faith.  
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

**Everlasting God, whose way is known to those who live by faith,  
Grant us to see, by faith,  
The image of God  
In each life shaped by your hand.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Everlasting God, whose way is known to those who live by faith,  
Grant us that, at the last,  
We will come into your presence  
And share in the life everlasting.  
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

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